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Dronfield  
Urban District Council.

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Annual Report

of the

HEALTH OF DRONFIELD

FOR 1923.

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BY

O. H. HUDSON,

M.R.C.S.

(MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH).

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1923.

# Summary of Report.

## *DRONFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

Area : 1,046 acres.

Population : (Census 1921), 4,435 ; 1923, 4,442.

Number of Occupied Houses : 1921, 1,009 ; 1923, 1,028.

Rateable Value, £15,224 9s. 0d. Assessable Value, £13,148 13s. 9d.

General District Rate : 6s. 8d. in the £.

Poor Rate, 8s. 6d. on Buildings and 2s. 1½d. on Agricultural Land.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £53 5s. 0d.

### Vital Statistics.

Births—	M.	F.	
Illegitimate	2	3	} Total 92. Birth-rate R.G. 27.1.
Illegitimate	3	3	

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Child Birth, Nil.

Deaths of Infants (under 1 year of age per 1,000 births) :

Legitimate, 65 ; Illegitimate, Nil.

Deaths from Measles, 1.

„ Whooping Cough, Nil.

„ Diarrhœa, Nil.

„ Diphtheria, Nil.

„ Enteric Fever, 1.

Death Rate, Total 11.48.

### WATER SUPPLY :—

Source of Supply : Moorland Water from the Chesterfield Rural Sanitary Authority's Mains.

### SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL :—

By Council's own Carts and Workmen.

# Dronfield Urban District Council.

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## *Annual Report of the Health of Dronfield for 1923.*

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE DRONFIELD URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in laying before you my Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Health of the Dronfield Urban District.

**Physical Features and General Character of the District.** The District lies to the south of Sheffield, and is wholly surrounded by the Chesterfield Rural Sanitary District. It has an area of 1,046 acres, none of which is covered by water. It is hilly in character, and the soil is carboniferous. The chief industries are coal-mining, iron-founding, malleable castings, and edge-tool making.

**The Population** at the census of 1921 was 4,435, and the estimated population, R.G. 1923, is 4,442.

The number of occupied houses (census 1921) was 1,009 occupied by 1,062 families. The number for 1902 is 1,028.

**The District Rate** was 6s. 8d. in the £, and the amount of the Poor Law Relief during the year was £1,296 13s. 10d. The number of people per house being 4.32.

**The Births** registered belonging to the District were 92, viz., 42 males and 50 females, which is equal to an annual rate 27.1. There were 5 illegitimate births, viz., 2 males and 3 females.

**The Deaths** registered belonging to the District were 51, which is equal to a rate of 11.48. The rate for the whole county being 10.72.

**Infantile Deaths** (Deaths under 1 year). There were 6 deaths of Infants under 1 year, viz., 4 males and 2 females, which is equal to an annual rate 65.2 per 1,000 births. There were no deaths of illegitimate children. The causes of death were as follows:—Measles 1, Bronchitis 1, Convulsions 1, Prematurity 3. The rate for the whole county is 74.7.



**Zymotic Diseases.**—The following cases of Notifiable Diseases were notified during the year:—

	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Measles ... ..	Nil	Nil	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	23	23	Nil
Diphtheria ... ..	7	7	Nil
Enteric Fever ... ..	1	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)... ..	8	Nil	3
Chicken-pox ... ..	26	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	2	1	Nil
Tuberculosis { Pulmonary—2—Both admitted to T. B. Dispensary. { Non-Pulmonary—Nil.			

After receiving notification of any infectious disease, the house is at once visited by your Inspector, and enquiries made, and disinfectants supplied free of cost. After receiving notice from the Medical Attendant that the case has recovered and is free from all further infection, or after the case has been removed to Hospital, the room, bedding, clothing, and all utensils used, are thoroughly stoved with Formalin vapour, and full instructions given to prevent further infection.

**Measles.** This is not a notifiable disease, but one death occurred in an infant 8 months old.

**Scarlet Fever.** Twenty-three cases were notified, chiefly in May, June and July. All the cases were at once admitted to Hospital and the homes thoroughly disinfected. There were no deaths. Altogether 22 houses were infected.

**Diphtheria.** Seven cases were notified and were admitted to Hospital. There were no deaths. It is the practice of your Council to supply Anti-toxin free in all cases of Diphtheria.

**Enteric Fever.** This case occurred in December, and after full enquiries were made, it was not ascertained how the infection has arisen. Unfortunately the case died after removal to Hospital.

**Pneumonia (all forms).** Eight cases were notified and three deaths occurred, which is equal to an annual rate of .67 per 1,000.

**Chicken-pox.** This disease has been notifiable during the year owing to the prevalence of Smallpox in a neighbouring district. Altogether 26 cases were notified, all being children.

**Ophthalmic Neonatorum.** Two cases were notified, both were attended by a Medical man. One case was sent to a Sheffield Hospital and quite recovered. The other case was a slight pusulent discharge which cleared up in a day or so.

**Tuberculosis Pulmonary.** Two fresh cases were notified and both were admitted in the Sanatorium. On receiving a notification notice is at once sent to the Tuberculosis visitor, and a full report is received as regards the house and its accommodation for isolating the patient. In almost all the cases the patient is admitted to the Sanatorium for treatment, and the house is periodically fumigated. There were two deaths, viz., one male and one female, which is equal to an annual rate of .45 per 1,000.

There were no cases of other tubercular diseases.

**Respiratory Diseases, Re State.** The North Derbyshire Hospital Committee, of which your Council contributes to the management and expenses, have four Isolation Hospitals, one of which is situated in the Urban District of Dronfield, containing 28 beds. There is also a Smallpox Hospital at Spital, Chesterfield, to which patients would be removed on the occurrence of any case being notified.

The County Council provide a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at the Congregational Chapel Schoolroom.

**Malignant Disease.** There were four deaths from Cancer, viz., 2 males and 2 females, which is equal to an annual rate of .9 per 1,000.

The nursing arrangements for the district for Tuberculosis and Measles is carried on by a Nurse, provided by the County Council.

There are 3 Midwives practising in the district, and are under the control of the County Medical Officer.

There is an ambulance in connection with the Isolation Hospital for removal of infectious cases.

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the District.**

**Water.** The water supply of the whole District is supplied by the Chesterfield Rural Sanitary Authority's mains, except one house, which is supplied by a well. The water is moorland water and plumbo-solvent in character, and is treated by percolating and alkaline filters to remove all peaty and acid matters.



**Drainage and Sewerage.** The outfall works are maintained in an efficient manner. The methods for disposal are by precipitation and percolating filters. The works have been inspected from time to time, and the affluent has been found satisfactory. Out of 1,028 houses there are only 52, which are not in the drainage area. These are all scattered houses on the outskirts of the district and are all served by sumps, which are regularly cleared out by servants of the Council. There has been sewer extensions carried out in Green Lane and Gosforth Lane, for new property in course of erection.

**Excrement Disposal.** There are 1,028 occupied houses, served with the following conveniences, viz., 509 privy middens, 511 water closets, 10 slop closets. Eighteen privy middens have been converted into water closets during the year; 5 new houses have been built and occupied and have been provided with water-closets and portable ashbins. There have been 13 new portable ashbins provided in place of ash-places demolished, making 160 houses served with portable ashbins in place of the old fixed ashpits.

**Scavenging.** The population for which there is public scavenging is 4,442. The whole work is done by the servants of the District Council at an estimated cost of 12s. 6d. per house, inclusive of administrative charges. There are no details as to costs between privies and water closets. The middens are emptied regularly, in some cases every week, and in others at longer intervals according to circumstances. The work is done in the early mornings, especially in the main thoroughfare.

**Sanitary Inspections of the District.** The number of visits made to premises were 220. The defects and nuisances discovered were 153, for which 70 informal notices and 83 statutory notices were served. There were 129 nuisances abated with or without notices. There were 42 notices served for conversion of privies into water-closets, of which 18 have been converted.

Premises and occupations which are controlled by Bye-laws in force in the District, which were passed in August, 1907, are:—Slaughter-houses, 8; Number of Occupations: Butcher, 1.

There is one Lodging-house in the District under the Bye-laws, passed by the Local Government Board, 1893. This house has been inspected twice. It has always been found in a clean condition.

There is only one Inspector, who comes under the Public Health Staff.

**Medical Inspection of School Buildings and Children.** The school buildings and conveniences have been systematically inspected during the year. The Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out by the County Authority. In all cases of infectious disease, where children are attending school, the head teachers are notified, and children from infected houses are excluded until the house and clothing have all been disinfected by your Inspector, and all further danger of infection has been reduced to a minimum.

**Food and Milk Supply.** There are eleven cow-keepers on the register, owning approximately 54 cows. There are 11 cowhouses which have been inspected fifteen times. The cubic air space for each cow in the cowsheds is from 500 to 800 cubic feet.

There is no sterilizing or pasteurising plant in the district.

The number of inspections of premises where food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale were:—Bakehouses 12, Slaughterhouses 18.

There are no special arrangements made for meat inspection, but the slaughterhouses are visited and systematically inspected without warning, and they have always been found in a sanitary condition.

**Housing.** There have been 5 new Houses completed during the year.

**Action under Statutory Power.** There have been 15 houses inspected for housing defects. There were 2 houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910. No houses were considered of low standard to warrant closing orders to be obtained. The number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by your officers were six.

**Proceedings under Public Health Action.** Seventy in formal notices and 83 formal notices have been issued for the abatement of nuisances and 129 defects were remedied.

No representations for Closing Orders under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing and Town Planning Acts have been made.

I am,  
Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

O. H. HUDSON.



# Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector, Dronfield Urban Sanitary Authority.

Name of Inspector :—T. H. ATKINSON.

Area of District, 1,046 acres.      Estimated No. of Houses, 1,028.

New Houses erected 1923—5.

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING—

Number of Houses inspected under Section 17...	...	...	15
Number Unfit for Habitation	...	...	Nil
Representations made to Local Authority as to Closing Orders	...	...	Nil
Closing Orders made	...	...	Nil
Number Repaired without Closing Order	...	...	2
Number Repaired after Closing Order made	...	...	Nil
Number Closed	...	...	Nil
Number Demolished	...	...	Nil
Number Repaired Voluntarily	...	...	4
Has a Scheme been prepared?	...	...	No
Number of Houses proposed in Scheme	...	...	No
Is the Scheme in progress?	...	...	No
Number of Houses completed under the Scheme	...	...	Nil
Number of Houses completed during the year 1923	...	...	Nil
Number of Houses yet to be completed or erected	...	...	Nil

	<i>Informal Notices served by Nuisance Inspector</i>	<i>Legal Notices served by Local Authority</i>	<i>Nuisances abated</i>
DRAINAGE—			
No Disconnection of Waste Pipe	2	...	2
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, Inlets and Drains	14	...	14
Drains Obstructed	20	...	20

## CLOSETS AND ASHPITS—

Defective Privies, Pail Closets and Ash- pits (not for Conversion)	...	41	41
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s	...	42	18
Defective Water Closets	6	...	6
Provision of Portable Ashbins	13	...	13
Dirty Closets	1	...	1

## OTHER DEFECTS—

Paving of Courts and Yards	2	...	2
Roofs, Eaves-Spouts and Down-Spouts	3	...	3
Sinks	1	...	1
Windows	2	...	2
Dampness	2	...	2
Water in Cellars	1	...	1
Offensive Accumulations	1	...	1
Urinals	2	...	2
Totals	70	83	129

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections made</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Nuisances abated with or without notice.</i>
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops...	11	15	2	2
Bakehouses	4	12	...	...
Slaughterhouses	8	18	...	...
Offensive Trades	Nil	...	...	...
Common Lodging-houses	1	2	...	...
Totals	24	47	2	2

Infected Rooms Disinfected :—Number, 74 ; Method, Formalin Vapour.  
Samples submitted for Examination :—Water, Nil ; Milk, Nil ; Sewage  
Effluents, Nil.

Prosecutions, Particulars of, Nil.

Food Seizures, Nil,      Food Voluntarily Surrendered, 2.

(Signed) T. H. ATKINSON,